

applied across millions of acres and hundreds of miles of waterways, at a cost of billions of dollars. We can improve this law—limiting unwarranted impacts—if we define the scientific standard federal agencies must meet when making ESA decisions.

This report is meant to update you on what the Resources Committee and your Arizona Representatives are working on to ensure that improper application of the Endangered Species Act will never threaten the economic security of Arizona and its people.

RICHARD POMBO,

*House Resources Committee Chairman.*

“Congress’ efforts to improve the ESA stems from an April 2001 decision by the Federal government to shut off irrigation water to nearly 1,200 farmers and ranchers in the Klamath Basin in California in order to protect several species of endangered fish. This decision was later examined by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which found that the order to shut off the water had ‘no sound scientific basis.’ As a result of this decision—with ‘no sound scientific basis’—the livelihoods of hundreds of farmers and ranchers in the area were destroyed, and the local economy and community was severely harmed. Your Arizona Representatives are working in Congress to reform the ESA to prevent this type of devastation from ever occurring in Arizona.”—Richard Pombo

#### RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK VALUABLE TO ARIZONA

Members of Arizona’s Congressional Delegation are making a difference for Arizonans every day through their work on the House Resources Committee. The Resources Committee deals with issues such as wildfire prevention, water rights, environmental protection, and land use. Arizona is fortunate to have Congressmen Rick Renzi, J.D. Hayworth, Jeff Flake, and Raul Grijalva working on these important issues.

#### RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORKING TO ENACT ESA REFORMS

Congressmen Renzi, Hayworth and Flake are co-sponsors of H.R. 1662, “The Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act,” to improve the way the law uses science and to further involve the public.

- Requires peer-reviewed science as basis for ESA decisions.
- Creates an independent process to amend the ESA to make certain that all aspects of science in the implementation of that act are sound and peer-reviewed.
- Establishes a mandatory independent scientific review requirement for all ESA listing and de-listing proposals to ensure the use of sound science and provide a mechanism for resolving scientific disputes during the rulemaking process.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to solicit and obtain additional data from landowners and others that would assist in the development of recovery plans, including the recovery goals.
- Requires that an action, including an action for injunctive relief, to enforce the prohibition against the incidental taking of a species must be based on pertinent evidence using scientifically valid principles.

#### RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT ON HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

America’s National Forests have become unnaturally dense, diseased, and insect infested, leaving them incredibly susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. To date, wildfires have burned over three million acres in the United States in 2003. These fires not only destroy forests, they kill wildlife and pollute air and water alike.

Arizona has had its fair share of wildfire disasters. The House Resources Committee

and its members are committed to protecting our environment from the devastating effects of catastrophic forest fires.

This report is meant to update you on what the Resources Committee and your Arizona Representatives are working on to help keep our forests healthy and keep fires from destroying forests, property, and jobs.

RICHARD POMBO,

*House Resources Committee Chairman.*

“The Resources Committee and its members are charged with the responsibility of coordinating federal efforts to encourage, enhance and improve programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources within our Public Forest areas. I am honored to have such dedicated and knowledgeable committee members to work with as we work to balance resource preservation and usage. I am particularly honored to work with Arizona Congressmen in efforts to prevent further forest fires from devastating Arizona’s incredible resources and beauty. Together we will continue to work on the issues affecting Arizona and the Southwest.”—Richard Pombo

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#### ARIZONA CONGRESSMEN HELP PASS “HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT”

Committee Members Renzi, Hayworth and Flake supported this bill, which provides resource managers with the tools they need to combat the dangers of overstocked forests.

The “Healthy Forests Restoration Act” would establish streamlined procedures to increase use of scientifically-proven management techniques of thinning and prescribed burning to avoid catastrophes to our forests, homes and water supply.

Additionally, the Act calls for additional open public meetings on all projects that fall under the Healthy Forests legislation, providing an opportunity for public input over-and-beyond current public hearing requirements.

And this landmark legislation makes for better forests management and helps protect communities from the dangers of uncontrolled wildfires.

It protects the rights of private landowners.

#### RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK FOCUSES ON SOUTHWEST’S FORESTS

Congressman Renzi introduced the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2003 to promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems. Resources Committee member J.D. Hayworth is a co-sponsor of this bill, along with Arizona Representative Jim Kolbe. The Resources Committee passed the act this summer helping solidify the future of Northern Arizona University’s Ecological Restoration Institute.

This is an important first step toward the future application of practical science-based forest restoration treatments that will reduce the risk of severe wildlife and improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems across the country.

Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage that I think the Members of the House sim-

ply do not know anything about. That committee received a large increase in funding last year in order to send out this propaganda into Members’ districts. I have heard of income protection, but this goes way too far. There is no excuse in the world for it, and I think we ought to take measures to stop it.

During the 107th and 108th Congress, most communities requested franking allocations somewhere between \$10,000 and \$30,000, and most spent far less than those allocations.

For example, the Committee on Government Reform franking allocation was \$35,000. They spent less than 10,000. Not counting the Committee on Resources, the largest request in Congress was the Committee on the Judiciary, which asked for \$80,000 for franking. However, the Committee on Resources requested a franking allocation of \$500,000, half a million. It is more than a 10,000 percent increase over the amount of the money that the Committee on Resources actually spent on franking in the 107th Congress. What is even more shocking is that the House rules do not prohibit a committee from sending out this propaganda with taxpayer dollars.

The gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) offered an amendment to close this loophole to stop this practice. The amendment would limit mailing expenses for any committee to \$25,000, which is more than generous. On a party-line vote, the Committee on Rules refused to make the sensible solution in order, and it is troubling that this problem has slipped under the radar for a year and a half and that the Committee on Rules refused to allow the full House to discuss the issue and vote up or down on this straightforward amendment. Debate on this serious problem has been quashed with a soft promise of future action.

Again and again, the Republicans silence the Democrats and the voices of millions of Americans. There is little time left on the legislative calendar. This problem deserves immediate attention. It is shocking in that this body will not even have the opportunity to debate the problem and to consider the solution of the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

This cries out for attention from this Congress, and I demand it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to note that we did have this discussion in the Committee on Rules about the printing yesterday. It just came up yesterday for the Republicans being criticized forever for rushing things to the floor. This seems a bit quick for the Democrats to do so. None of us on the Committee on Rules, Republican side, have seen that yet, but the committee of jurisdiction is actually the Committee on House Administration, and I think